

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Revocation	)	<b>ORDER OF</b>
	)	
or Suspension of the Educator	)	<b>SUMMARY SUSPENSION</b>
	)	
Certification of Leslie M. Wilson,	)	
	)	
Certificate 166770	)	

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 8, 2005. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. §1-23-370(c) (2004), the State Department of Education (Department) requested that the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Leslie M. Wilson, certificate 166770. The Department has reason to believe that, due to the nature of the allegations of misconduct that preceded Ms. Wilson's resignation of May 25, 2005, from Anderson County School District One, Ms. Wilson may pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students that may be under her instruction. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to summarily suspend Ms. Wilson's certificate until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The Department is directed to send a notice to Ms. Wilson of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate, by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Wilson holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has over eleven years of teaching experience. Ms. Wilson was employed as a Spanish teacher at Wren High School in Anderson County School District One (District). She resigned from the District on May 25, 2005, after the initiation of an investigation into allegations that she had attempted to initiate physically intimate relationships with several male students at Wren High School, using sexually

explicit language and sexual contact. Law enforcement declined to file criminal charges against Ms. Wilson because all of the male students involved are sixteen years of age or older.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), "If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." The State Board finds that there is reason to believe that Ms. Wilson may pose a threat to the welfare of students that may be under her instruction. Accordingly, the State Board thereby summarily suspends Ms. Wilson's certificate 166770 until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester  
Paul M. Forrester  
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
June 8, 2005